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ABSTRACT

This report presents a University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign questionnaire form designed to approach a random sample of upper classmen who dropped out but were in good academic standing. The questionnaire was expanded to sample three other groups of students: upperclassmen dropouts who were on academic probation at the end of their last semester, prospective freshmen applicants who were committed to the extent of having paid $85 in nonrefundable fees, and prospective freshmen approved for admission but who did not pay fees. Questionnaire results indicated financial reasons given by dropouts for their absence from the campus. (MJM)

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Thank you for your inquiry about the student survey which we ran last fall. For your information I have enclosed a copy of the data collection instrument which we used and the brief note which went along with it. As a check against the possibility that any bias was built into the standard questionnaire, there were several "open-end" questions which we coded and tabulated. For your information I have also enclosed the coded responses to these questions--1a, 2b(1), 3b, and 4. The responses to questions 1a and 4 were particularly interesting and heavily influenced the conclusions. I have also enclosed a copy of an article from the University of Minnesota's University Report and a copy of a news release written on our findings.

Our study was originally designed to approach a random sample of 50% of the classes who dropped out but were in good academic standing. This sample included 706 such students. But the study was expanded to sample three other groups of students: (a) graduating seniors who were on schedule to graduation at the end of their last semester (we surveyed 400 of these students from the Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Engineering only), (b) prospective freshman applicants who were committed to the extent of having paid $25 in non-refundable fees (we surveyed all 422 such students) and (c) prospective freshman approved for admission but who did not pay fees (we took a random sample of 500 such students in order to get some idea of who our "competition" is).

As you might well imagine, individual replies were often that not mere combinations of reasons for not enrolling this past fall semester. But the largest frequency of responses indicated financial reasons (or financially related reasons) and the fact that many students were simply tired of going to school for awhile but would more than likely re-enroll at a later date.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

A. P. Gruhzit
Assistant Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

APGruh

HE 004 302

This Fall institutions of higher education have experienced unprecedented decreases in attendance. We are seeking some insight into why this phenomenon has occurred. As one who had previously indicated an intention to enroll at Urbana-Champaign, would you please give us your reasons for not doing so by completing and returning the attached questionnaire. It is very easy to complete, most questions requiring you only to circle one number to answer them. After you fill it out, refold the questionnaire and staple or tape it so that the Survey Research Laboratory address shows. Postage is prepaid. We would like to receive your response by October 15, if possible, so that it can be included in our analysis.

Please be assured that your reply will be treated in strict confidence (the questionnaire number on the form is only for sample control); results will be issued only as aggregate tabulations. Your assistance in this study will be invaluable in improving the planning for higher education. If you would like to receive a copy of the results of this survey, we'll pay the postage if you will enclose a self-addressed envelope.

Thank you.

Charles E. Warwick, Director
Office of Admissions and Records

Ques. No. _____ 1-4
Study No. 110 5-7

1a. Are you now enrolled in another school? Yes . . . . . 1 8|9
No *(Skip to Q.2)*. . . 2

b. Name of the school _____

c. Is this a *(Circle one number)*. . . . . Junior college. . . . . 1 9|9
Public 4-yr. college or univ. . 2
Private 4-yr. college or univ.. 3
Other *(Specify)* _____ 4

d. What were your reasons for going elsewhere?

_____ 10,11|99

_____ 12,13|99

(Skip to Question 7.)

2. To what degree, if any, did each of the following possible factors affect your decision not to enroll at Urbana-Champaign this semester? *(Circle one number in each row.)*

	Greatly	Moderately	Slightly	Not at all	
a. The unavailability of financial aid *(teacher ed. or county scholarships, Ill. State Scholarship Commission grants, etc.)* .	1	2	3	4	14|9
b. My parents are unable to contribute toward the cost of my education this year. .	1	2	3	4	15|9
c. My personal financial situation changed for the worse *(shortage of summer jobs, etc.)*. .	1	2	3	4	16|9
d. *(If male)* It seems likely that I'll be drafted this year.	1	2	3	4	17|9
e. The employment prospects for the field I had chosen are currently poor.	1	2	3	4	18|9
f. I just wanted to do something other than go to college.	1	2	3	4	19|9

(Those who attended previously answer g & h. All others skip to Q.3)

g. I was displeased with my own academic performance.	1	2	3	4	20|9
h. I was disappointed with my experience at Urbana-Champaign	1	2	3	4	21|9

(1) *(If you were disappointed)* What didn't you like?

_____ 22,23|99

_____ 24,25|99

(Continue to Q.3.)

3a. Are there any other factors that played a role in your decision not to enroll at Urbana-Champaign for the Fall 1971 semester?

Yes 1
No *(Skip to Q.4)*. . . 2 | 26|9

b. What were they? _____ | 27,28|99

_____ | 29,30|99

4. What was your single most important reason for not attending school this Fall?

_____ | 31,32|99

_____

5a. Do you plan to reapply for admission to college in the Spring semester or at some future date?

Yes. 1
No *(Skip to Q.6)* 2
Undecided *(Skip to Q.6)*. . 8 | 33|9

b. Will you be reapplying at Urbana-Champaign or enrolling elsewhere?

Urbana-Champaign 1
Elsewhere. 2
Undecided . . . . . 8 | 34|9

c. When you return to college, do you plan to change your major field?

Yes. 1
No 2
Undecided. . . . . 8 | 35|9

6. Please indicate briefly what you will be doing during the next few months.

_____ | 36,37|99

_____

7. Please give us the following classifying information:

a. Sex. . . . . Male. 1
Female. . . . . 2 | 38|9

b. What class would you be in had you currently enrolled?

Freshman. 1
Sophomore 2
Junior. 3
Senior. . . . . 4 | 39|9

c. What was your intended major at Urbana-Champaign?

Humanities & Communications. . . 01
Arts & Architecture 02
Biological Sciences 03
Agriculture Sciences. 04
Health Professions. 05
Mathematical Sciences. 06
Physical Sciences. . . 07
Engineering. 08
Social Sciences. . . . 09
Applied Social Sciences and Professions. . . . 10
General Curriculum . . 11
Other *(Specify)*_____ 12 | 40,41|99 ____ | 42|9

| 43-79|

| 80|1

THANK YOU.

Please fold your questionnaire with the Survey Research Laboratory address showing, staple or tape, and put in the mail as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

1d. What were your reasons for going elsewhere?

00. Not applicable (Col. 8 is 2)
01. Financial (Cheaper)
02. Married and moved
03. Personal reasons
04. Better atmosphere
05. Smaller
06. Better curriculum (or no similar curriculum at U of I)
07. Closer to home (can live at home)
08. First Choice
09. Scholarship-Financial-aid there (or none at UI)
10. Changed major, wasn't accepted in field-was at other place
11. Easier school
12. Fewer curriculum requirements (e.g. Language requirements)
13. Didn't like U.I. housing
14. Better school--good reputation
15. Moved
16. Parents/Brother/Sister went there
17. U.I accepted too late (other problems with entrance)
18. Not satisfied with U.I.teachers/counseling/ system, etc.
19. Dropped from University- poor grades at U.I/ on probation
20. To continue Medical curriculum

66. Other
77. No second mention
88. Don't know
99. No answer

2h (i) (If you were disappointed) What didn't you like?

01. Was bored with courses/ school
02. Didn't like dorm living, living conditions
03. University system - no financial aid, impersonal, not accepted in major etc., wouldn't let continue
04. Didn't like quality of instructors (Teaching Assistants)
05. Didn't like competition/grades (Pressure)
06 Too expensive to live
07. Irrelevant (to social problems/real world)
08. Classes too large
09. Social environment
10. Poor intellectual environment
11. Too many requirements outside field of interest.
12. Didn't like major
13. Not enough electives
14. Poor counselling

66. Other (Personal)

77. No second mention
88. Don't know
99. No answer

3b. What were the factors that played a role in your decision not to enroll at Urbana-Champaign for the Fall 1971 semester?

01. No goal or purpose in continuing

02. Wanted practical/realistic experiences

03. Wanted to travel

04. Problem of transferring credits/admission problems

05. Personal (Health)

06. Offered a job

07. Married

08. College doesn't seem to help get a job (in my field)

09. Moved

10. Wanted to go to another school

11. Couldn't transfer major

12. Only a few hours left to get degree/wasn't worth a semester.

13. Too many requirements

14. Higher cost at U.I and in Champaign-Urbana

15. Didn't like dorm/housing requirements

16. Dissatisfied with educational system

17. Poor grades--dropped from University

66. Other

77. No second mention

88. Don't know

99. No answer

4. What was your single most important reason for not attending school this Fall?

01. Financial

02. Married

03. Wanted to do something other than go to college

04. Lost scholarship/financial aid

05. Personal (Health, etc.)

06. Academic problems

07. Draft

08. Not accepted into curriculum

09. Problems with credit transfer, scheduling, major

10. Got a job

11. Other school- applied too late, not accepted to other school.

12. Not sure of goals or what I want to do

13. Employment prospects poor

14. Dissatisfied with educational system

15. Dropped from University

16. Few courses left-will take by correspondence

66. Other

6. Please indicate briefly what you will be doing during the next few months.

01. Working

02. Housewife

03. Working and school part-time

04. "Nothing"

05. Traveling

06. In Army

07. Recovering from accident/illness

08. Housewife and school part-time

09. Looking for a job

99. No answer

campus report

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR · UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN · VOL. 5, NO. 3, DECEMBER, 1971

Dropout Survey Shows Financial Reasons Kept Students From Enrolling

Enrollment of undergraduates at Urbana-Champaign dropped this fall to 23,105 from 24,558 a year ago. The final figures are well below the 24,100 new freshmen and returning undergraduates that had been expected for the fall of 1971.

Why? To get at the answer, the Office of the Chancellor sent questionnaires to more than 2000 who had indicated their intention to enroll but did not. These include:

— Prospective freshmen who had paid about $85 in non-refundable fees (161 replies, 261 no replies).

— Prospective freshmen approved for admission who did not pay (263 replies, 306 no replies).

— Upperclassmen who dropped out with good academic standing (453 replies, 226 no replies).

— Upperclassmen dropouts who were on academic probation (127 replies, 282 no replies).

The main thing we discovered is that those who are not here are enrolled in other schools or are working, and most gave financial reasons for their decision.

Of the freshmen who had paid and did not come to Urbana-Champaign, 92 percent were found now enrolled elsewhere, and of those who had not paid, 95 percent.

Of the 92 percent who had paid fees here but went elsewhere, 43 percent gave as their first or second reason, "It was cheaper," or "I got a scholarship." Another 10 percent said they chose a school closer to home — which might also be a financial reason if the student is living at home. Twenty-nine percent said they changed their minds to go to a smaller school.

Of the 95 percent of admissible freshmen who did not pay fees here and went elsewhere, nearly half mentioned financial reasons and more than half said they chose a smaller school.

Some who had been accepted as freshmen but didn't come said they applied to Illinois as a second choice and had been accepted at their first choice school.

Upperclassmen in good standing who transferred to other schools instead of returning to this campus had various reasons, but only 6 percent gave dissatisfaction with the University as a reason.

Sixty percent are enrolled in public four year colleges and universities, many of them at the Chicago Circle or Medical Center campuses.

For those students who dropped out and who are not enrolled elsewhere, the chief factor was a change in the personal financial situation — such as lack of summer jobs and decrease in personal savings. To a lesser extent the parent's inability to contribute and the inavailability of scholarships and financial aid entered into the picture, but only 25 percent gave this as a reason.

Of the 40 percent not now enrolled in any college or university, nearly half said they just wanted to do something other than go to school, but well over half expect to reapply for admission to the University of Illinois later and do not plan to change their major field of study.

Significantly, none indicated that poor employment prospects in their chosen field was the single most important reason for not coming back to school. Only 13 percent of the males who could have come back in good standing and who are not now enrolled in any school said they stayed out because they expect to be drafted.

Of the non-returning students who were on academic probation, 47 percent are enrolled elsewhere, most of them in junior colleges. The majority who are not now attending any school said they plan to reapply for admission at Urbana-Champaign in the future.

Some of the dropouts on probation who are not enrolled in any school said they were disappointed with their experience in the University, and 47 percent gave poor grades as their reason for dropping out. They said they were generally dissatisfied, bored, or didn't like teaching assistants. Some said they were not sure of their goals, and the majority are working or looking for a job. Twenty percent said the draft affected their decision not to re-enroll.

Procedures and Guidelines Established by President For Nonreappointment Review

Procedures and guidelines have been established for review and disposition of requests for hearings received from certain members of the academic staff to whom notices of nonreappointment were issued prior to September 1, 1971.

President John E. Corbally Jr. was authorized by the Board of Trustees October 20 to develop and establish procedures and guidelines "in order to provide a formally sanctioned basis for dealing with these requests."

This action came after a U.S. Court of Appeals decision which suggested that in a terminal notice situation, "affording the professor a glimpse at the reasons and a minimal opportunity to test them is an appropriate protection."

As a result, persons receiving terminal notices were advised that they might request a review of notices of nonreappointment. Certain members of the academic staff exercised that option.

The procedures established are:

(1) The President delegates to the Chancellor of the appropriate campus the designation of an individual or individuals to review circumstances and procedures which resulted in the notice of nonreappointment.

For the Urbana-Champaign campus, Chancellor J. W. Peltason has appointed each of the academic deans and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Morton W. Weir as the reviewers.

(2) The designated reviewer shall obtain from the appropriate University officer through the appropriate academic vice chancellor a written report of the evaluative processes employed in each case and the reasons for the recommendation for nonreappointment. The report shall identify the extent of involvement of the recipient in the process.

For this campus, the Chancellor has designated department heads as the "appropriate University officers" for those within their own departments who have received notices of nonreappointment. Reports from

FROM OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(217) 333-1085

Immediate Release
Mailed 12/6/71

DEC 6 - 1971
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC

URBANA, Ill.--Lack of money was the main reason given by "drop-outs" from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for their absence from the campus this fall.

An unprecedented number of undergraduate students in good academic standing when they left the campus in the spring were missing when classes resumed in September. There also was an unusually large number of prospective freshmen, many of whom had paid about $85 in non-refundable fees, who were approved for admission but did not enroll at Urbana-Champaign.

To find out why, the Office of the Chancellor sent questionnaires to more than 2,000 "absentees."

"The main thing we discovered is that those who are not here are enrolled in other schools or are working, and most gave financial reasons for their decision," said Anthony F. Graziano, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, who analyzed the results of the survey.

"What has changed most is not whether the student will attend, but where and when he attends," Graziano said. "Financial constraints are limiting the choices for students seeking the most from our statewide system of higher education--limiting their choices of institutions and, in fact, their ability to stay in the system without dropping out for a semester or two."

Sixty per cent of the students who left the campus in good standing and did not return this fall said they transferred to other colleges and universities, many of them going to the Chicago Circle and Medical Center campuses of the U. of I.

(MORE--DROP-OUTS)

Of the remaining 40 per cent, more than half said they expected to return to Urbana-Champaign later and continue their same major field of study. Only one of every eight men in this group said he stayed away because he expected to be drafted.

"Significantly, none indicated that poor employment prospects in his or her chosen field was the single most important reason for not coming back to school," Graziano said.

"For those students who dropped out and who are not enrolled elsewhere, the chief factor was a change in the personal financial situation, such as a lack of summer jobs and a decrease in personal savings. To a lesser extent, the parents' inability to contribute and the unavailability of scholarships and financial aid entered into the picture."

Nearly half of the students who were on academic probation for poor grades last spring and did not return said they enrolled elsewhere, most of them in junior colleges. Most of those not now going to school said they hoped to re-enroll at Urbana-Champaign in the future. One of every five men not enrolled in any school said the draft affected his decision.

Of the freshmen who were accepted but did not enroll, nearly all are going to other schools, many because "It was cheaper," "I got a scholarship" or "It was closer to home."

Undergraduate enrollment at Urbana-Champaign this fall totaled 23,105 students, 985 fewer than expected.

-fm-

16/ps